

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/820,259

Examiner

Angela Ortiz

Applicant(s)

MOTT ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the board decision of July 21, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7,9-12,18-22 and 25-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: it is deemed novel and unobvious over the prior art of record to so perform a method for forming an electrical connector, the method including providing at least one electrical conductor comprising a first plurality of ribs; jacketing said at least one electrical conductor with an electrical insulating material to form a connector body, wherein said first plurality of ribs defines a first tortuous path with said electrical insulating material for impeding the passage of fluid, said connector body comprising a second plurality of ribs for defining a second tortuous path for impeding passage of fluid between said connector body and a surrounding structure within which at least a portion of said connector body is disposed after said connector body is formed, wherein said second plurality of ribs comprise melt ribs formed when said second plurality of ribs is formed, as claimed in claim 7; and a method for forming a fuel flange, the method further including providing at least one electrical conductor comprising a first plurality of ribs; jacketing said at least one electrical conductor with an electrical insulating material to form a connector body, said first plurality of ribs defining a first tortuous path with said electrical insulating material for impeding the passage of hydrocarbon based fuel components, said connector body comprising a second plurality of ribs comprising a substantially uniform series of ribs looping around an exterior of the connector body; and, molding said fuel flange around said connector body for forming a second tortuous path, said second plurality of ribs defining said second tortuous path for impeding passage of hydrocarbon based fuel

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components between said connector body and said fuel flange, as claimed in claim 18; and a method of forming a vehicle fuel tank combined fuel flange and electrical connector including molding a pre-mold housing onto a plurality of electrical conductors to form a pre-mold electrical connector, wherein the electrical conductors comprising ribs such that first tortuous joints are formed between the pre-mold housing and the electrical conductors; and overmolding a flange member onto the pre-mold electrical connector, wherein the pre-mold housing comprises series of circumferential ribs on an exterior side which form a second tortuous joint between the flange member and the pre-mold electrical connector, as claimed in claim 25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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